

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD WITH WATER DEPARTMENT
MINUTES

Date: October 15, 2021

Time: 1:33pm

Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie and Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen.

Others present via zoom: Nathan Stalker, Ray Palmucci, Will Brinker, Max Kolb, Peg McDonough.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

The Board discussed with the Water Department officials the mission, goals, future plans, need for internet, infrastructure upgrades and water line replacement and upgrade.

182 Households are served - estimate 500 people.

On average 45,000 gallons of water is used daily

Though there is capacity, there are no realistic plans to expand. Recent requests proved to be too costly. Most recent was Turner Farms-using as back up water supply.

Currently using about 20% of capacity. Proactive leak detection was able to lower the daily gallons.

Minimum bill is \$98.50 - rates going up per order of the DEP on November 1, 2021.

Future Plans/Needs:

- Leak detection equipment - ARPA funding could be used

- Internet to plan - ARPA funding could be used, March 2022 grant funds

- Replace back up pumps - ARPA funding could be used

- Bigger pumps

- Repair sand filters

- Possible hire secondary operator

- Repair crack in retaining wall - not emergent

- Replace water lines - need engineer

- Alarm system upgrade - ARPA funding could be used

- Video Surveillance - ARPA funding could be used

Infrastructure Upgrades:

- An engineer will need to be retained to evaluate the costs of replacing water lines.

- Approximately 600' of water line is to be replaced during the Route 23/41 reconstruction project by MassDOT (Route 41 to Old Mill).

- Town should try to coordinate replacement on the balance of Main Street's water lines to take place during construction as the Town cannot do so for at least 5 years after the

reconstruction (unless in an emergency). (Estimate for materials \$38 per foot.)

Debt for water plant is being paid off in 2021.

Infrastructure upgrades should be planned so Water debt stays level. Can't assess \$40 debt charge without having debt payments to make.

Consider establishing a special Stabilization Fund.

Priorities:

Internet is vital - funding mechanism ARPA or the Municipal Fiber Grant Program in March, 2022.

Engineering for water line upgrades. Need to act on immediately. A draft of an RFP for the engineering services will be reviewed and presented to the Board at its October 26 meeting.

Peg McDonough noted that one category of the ARPA funding without strings is in fact water infrastructure and broadband. There is no COVID tie in required. Has to be consistent with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

There are approximately 6 miles, total of 8 miles, of water line left to upgrade

When the town does water line upgrades, it was suggested that residents be notified so they may opt into having their service line replaced, at their cost, during the water line upgrade.

Adjournment 2:31pm

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.22/oct15water

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.